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Connie Bowie

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BOW
MUSIC- INSTRUCTION
+ STUDY
KINDERGARTENS

Honors Special Studies

Connie Bowie

Mrs. Frances Scott
Spring 1972

Kinder Care Music

This special studies project was full of action and practical experience. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 a.m. I went to the First Baptist Church Kinder Care Center to teach music. It worked out to be one hour each week--15 minutes with each group on both days.

I got interested in this project November 1971 when they asked me to help with their Thanksgiving program. They have a fantastic program but don't feel adequate in music. Mrs. Wasson wanted them to have music but sometimes they didn't get around to it. Mrs. Dickerson taught the music sessions but had a little trouble on the piano. With me arriving about 11:00, they planned activities to include music.

We started out with a trial schedule of 30 minutes on Tuesday for one group and 30 minutes for the other on Thursday. This wasn't the best because there was a week between classes with them and they forgot what we had learned. Their attention span wasn't long for one subject--I had to have alot planned to keep them interested. We tried having each group 15 minutes separately on both days, which was more effective.

It was easier for me to have the 2 groups separate. The 4 year olds were generally calmer and seemed more interested. The 5 year olds were always different. I never knew what to expect

each day. If I could have been there to observe about 30 minutes before music each day, I could have figured out what the mood was. One child could affect the entire group. Even the weather or day of the week could make a difference. I can understand why the teacher needs to know each child and something about his background. From the few minutes each day, I learned enough about each one to know what to expect from each.

As a whole, they were fast learners. They caught on to the songs and would sing. They loved for me to sing the song with a few wrong words and have them correct me and then help me with it. It was a fast way for them to get the words and melody correct. I was amazed at the things they knew. They were always telling me about something they had seen or done.

There is no way to tell everything I learned from this experience. It convinced me that I want to work with small children and that I can do it. It has helped to prepare me for practice teaching-- I'm looking forward to it already.

I loved the children and working with them. Kindergarten is even more fun the second time around!